

CHILD PROTECTION — CARERS

3260. Hon Colin Tincknell to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Child Protection:

- (1) During the month of May 2020, what was the total number of registered carers with four or more children placed with them, by category of relative and non-relative carer, by district?
- (2) During the month of May 2020, how many carers had a 'carer record screening' overdue or not recorded, by category of relative and non-relative carer, by district?
- (3) During the month of May 2020, how many carers had overdue 'carer reviews', by category of relative and non-relative carer, by district?

Hon Sue Ellery replied:

- (1) This information is not captured and available retrospectively. As at 16 October 2020:

District	Family Carer	Foster Carer
Armadale	4	11
Cannington	6	2
East Kimberley	0	2
Fremantle	6	0
Goldfields	1	4
Great Southern	2	0
Joondalup	3	5
Midland	14	8
Midwest Gascoyne	5	6
Mirrabooka	3	6
Peel	7	5
Perth	5	6
Pilbara	5	1
Rockingham	5	3
Southwest	6	8
West Kimberley	2	1
Wheatbelt	12	2
Total	86	70

- (2) This information is not captured and available retrospectively. As at 16 October 2020:

District	Total
Armadale	1
East Kimberley	1
Goldfields	1
Midland	4
Midwest Gascoyne	1
Perth	5
South West	4
West Kimberley	1
Wheatbelt	1

An urgent placement with a family member or significant other can be made under s.79(2)(b) of the *Children and Community Services Act 2004*, based on an initial safety assessment and may occur prior to the commencement of formal record screening. Where urgent care arrangements occur, the Department of Communities (Communities) undertakes a safety assessment, focusing on the safety, wellbeing and

best interests of the child. These urgent arrangements can occur in circumstances where children enter Communities' care suddenly or there is a sudden change to their care arrangement.

Carer screening forms part of the carer assessment process and includes a Criminal Record Check and a Client and Child Protection Check.

Communities actively monitors and actions where record screenings are not recorded.

- (3) This information is not captured and available retrospectively. As at 16 October 2020:

District	Family	Foster
Armadale	31	20
Cannington	25	12
East Kimberley	3	1
Fremantle	23	4
Goldfields	5	5
Great Southern	8	6
Joondalup	20	18
Midland	25	17
Midwest Gascoyne	31	15
Mirrabooka	26	11
Peel	27	24
Perth	24	16
Pilbara	9	2
Rockingham	29	13
Southwest	28	19
West Kimberley	34	2
Wheatbelt	16	9
Child and Carer Connection Hub	0	2
Total	364	196

A person who applies to become a foster carer is assessed against five criteria, known as competencies identified in the *Children and Community Services Regulations 2006*. The CEO must be satisfied that the individual:

is able to provide care for a child in a way that promotes the wellbeing of the child, promotes the child's family and interpersonal relationships, and protects the child from harm

is able to provide a safe living environment for a child

is able to work cooperatively with officers, a child's family and other people when providing care for a child

is able to take responsibility for the development of his or her competency and skills as a carer, and is a person of good character and repute.

Providing support to foster carers forms part of an ongoing process, through regular visits with the foster carer and de-briefing. The foster carer review meeting is an additional annual event, with information gathered from visits or other contact with the foster carer throughout the year contributing to the annual (12 month) review process and re-assessment against the competencies.

Communities recognises that at times, annual reviews can be impacted by carer availability, distance or a sudden change in circumstances or care arrangement.